

Death of Judge Advocate Supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom

It is with deep sadness that I inform you of the death of Captain Michael R. Martinez, HHT, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR). CPT Martinez was one of 12 personnel killed when the Black Hawk helicopter in which they were traveling went down near Tall Afar, Iraq, shortly before midnight on Saturday, 7 January 2006.

CPT Martinez was assigned to Fort Carson as the Chief, Legal Assistance. He volunteered to deploy in support of 3rd ACR in November 2005. CPT Martinez's previous assignments as a Judge Advocate were at 24th Infantry Division and Fort Riley and the Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth. He was a member of the 147th Judge Advocate Officer Basic Course. Prior to his appointment as a Judge Advocate, CPT Martinez had served as a Paralegal Specialist and later Court Reporter, rising to the rank of Staff Sergeant (E-6). His enlisted assignments included tours at Fort Riley, KS, Fort Wainwright, AK, and the Missouri Army National Guard. He was a 1998 graduate of the University of Missouri School of Law, Columbia, MO. He received his undergraduate degree from the Upper Iowa University, Fayette, IA, in 1995.

CPT Martinez was 43 years old and married. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his wife, Kelly, his three sons, Alexander, Colby, and Benjamin, and his stepdaughters, Kathryn and Samantha.

Further information, including details of the memorial service, will follow as soon as they become available. I ask that you remember the Martinez family in your prayers at this most difficult of times.

Scott C. Black
Major General, USA
The Judge Advocate General